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THIS IS THE STORY OF AMERICA'S MOST FABULOUS SECRET WEAPON! IT'S ALSO THE DRAMATIC STORY OF THE MEN WIND MANNED IT - IN THE FINISH FIGHT AGAINST AS DEADLY AN INVASION AS EVER MENACED. THE EARTH! HERE IT IS, AS IT HAPPENED - THE MIGHTY AND CHALLENGING STORY OF THE

# ATOMIC SUB



WILLIAM L. BATTLE

WORLD WAR IT ACE AND RECENT DIVISIONAL DIRECTOR, U.S. SECRET SERVICE -- NOW IN COMMAND OF THE ATOMIC SUMMARME



DR. EDWIN BLAKE

EXPERT ON ATOMIC
FISSION AND MASTER
OF MODERN MECHANICS,
WINNER OF MILLIKEN
PRIZE AS AMERICA'S
OUTSTANDING
SCIENTIST



B. RUGBLES

INT PRIZE, GOLDEN
GLOVES -- WITERCOLLEGIATE WRESTLING
CHAMP--A.A.U. WEIGHTLIFTING TITLE -- HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION,
U.S. NAVY, 1944 -OLYMPIC HEAVYWEIGHT
TITLE, 1950



GARDEILO THE GHEAT

WORLDWIDE REPUTATION
AS THE "MODERN-DAY
HOUDINI" ESCAPE
ARTIST ON CARNIVAL
CIRCUITS



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ON OCTOBER 14th, 1951, NAVAL INSTALLATIONS AT NEW LUNDON, CONH., BECAME A VERITABLE NO-MAN'S-LANO, CLOSELY GUARDED AGAINST ALL, UHAUTHORIZED PERSONNELI WHAT WAS NAPPENING THERE WAS A HUSH-HUSH, TOP PRIORITY SECRET!

THOSE WHO SENSED THE MYSTERY WONDEREDI THEY HAD GREATER CAUSE FOR WONDER WHEN, IN MARCH, 1953, ACTIVITY SUDDENLY HEIGHTENED TO FEVER PITCH!

WHO MIGHT BE

LISTENIN'



I-I CAN'T TAKE THIS OVER-DON'T DISCUSS IT OUTSIDE OF THE YARDS, YA BIG DOPE! YA CAN'T TELL BIG RUSH TO FINISH IT AHEAD OF SCHEDULE? WHAT CAN BE HAPPENIN' THAT THEY NEED A

MEH - MATERIALS - RECKLESSLY EXPENDED IN A DESPERATE, ROUND-THE-CLOCK STRUGGLE TO RUSH TO COMPLETION A MIGHTY SECRET WEAPONI SLOWLY, ALL TOO SLOWLY IT TOOK SHAPE - THE ATOMIC SUBMARINE!



YOU LDOK, MARYEL - ASK YOURSELF WHY! NAVEN'T WE A MODERNLY-EQUIPPED MAYY, AN'UP-TO-THE-MINUTE AIR FORCE, DOGFACES SECOND TO NONE? TNEN WHY THE WILD MEEO FOR THIS GIAHT DE-VICE - AND ALL THE NUSH-HUSH SURRDUNDING ITS CONSTRUCTION?

SECRECY - WHISPERS - WILD RUMORS THAT EVEN YOU PROBABLY NEARDI FOR IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP ALL WORD OF THIS VAST PROJECT FROM LEAKING DUT!

LOOK, MISTER, THEY DON'T TELL ME ANYTHIN ALL I KNOW IS THEY'RE DRIVIN' US LIKE SLAVES! SOMETHIN'S UP, AN' THEY NEED THIS THING FINISHED FAST!

15 IT SOME NEW TYPE OF NAVAL CRAFT OR ISN'T IT?

AND WHAT'S THE RUSH ABOUT LAUNCHING IT, MR. SECRETARY?



NOTHING FOR PUBLI-CATION! IF YOU WON'T QUOTE ME, I MIGHT SAY THAT IT'S THE GREATEST SECRET WEAPON AMERICA'S EVER HAD! WE NEED IT NOW -- QUICK -- BECAUSE WE MAY BE FACING THE MOST AWFUL EMERGENCY IN OUR HISTORY!

EMERGENCY - EMERGENCY - AND TO MEET IT, THE ATOMIC SUB-MARINE - A HUGE MECHANICAL MARYEL THAT COULD BE OPERATED BY A CREW OF ONLY FOUR MENT

BUT THEY CAN'T BE ORDINARY MEN, MR. BATTLE! A MIGHTY WEAPON LIKE THIS INDIVIDUALS .. WHO CAN SAFEGUARD IT, GET THE MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE FROM IT!



NOW GET THIS! YOU'RE KNOWN AS ONE OF THE KEENEST BRAINS IN THE SECRET SERVICE -- AND YOU'RE ALREADY IN ON THIS EMERGENCY! I'M LEAVING IT TO YOU TO CHOOSE THE THREE GREATEST MEN YOU CAN FIND -- MEN WHO CAN MEET ANY TYPE OF DANGER, AND WIN THROUGH!



THAT'LL BE YOU! YOU SEE -- YOU'LL BALL BATTLE!

M-ME ? GOSH, MR PRESIDENT, I APPRECIATE
THE HONOR AND I --I'LL GIVE IT EVERYTHING I'VE GOT!



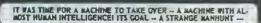
IT CALLED FOR THE THREE GREATEST MEN FOR THE JOB AT HAND - SPECIALISTS -- AHO BILL BATTLE USED 20TH CENTURY PERSONNEL METHODS TO FIHO THEM AT THE INFORMATION BUREAU OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

HUH! EXPECT US TO LOCATE ONE GUY WHO COMBINES ALL THESE QUALITIES MASTER BOXER --CHAMP WRESTLER --WEIGHT LIFTER -DISTANCE SWIMMER-

YEAH, AND HOW ABOUT SCIENTIST, EXPERT AT MECHANICS, ATOMIC DEVICES AND GENE-RAL WEAPONS -- ACE IN CHEMISTRY, PHYSICS

THE THIRD LIST OF QUALIFICATIONS WILL SURPRISE YOU EVEN MORE! STOW THE GAB, BOYS -

AND START FEEDING CARDS INTO THOSE MACHINES!





WHEELS SPUN -- GEARS ENGAGEO -- AS THE ODO DEVICE RELENT-LESSLY SOUGHT OUT ITS INFORMATIONI AND WITHIN A MATTER OF HOURS, A THOUSANO MILES AWAY --





FOR YHE FIRST TIME, THEY MET -- THESE MEN WIND WERE TO CONTROL SO LARGE A SHARE OF AMERICA'S DESTINY --

WONDER WHAT ABOUT I GUESS WE'LL WHAT THEY MET ALL I'M FIND OUT THAT SOME LITTLE FOR? A THE HOUDING BUREAUCRAT NERE MUSCLE-STUFF -- AN NAD A BRAIH -ESCAPE BOY -STORM! ARTIST : GENTLEMEN





YOU MEN HAVE BEEH CALLED HERE BECAUSE EACH OF YOU IS AN OUTSTANDING EXPERT OF HIS TYPE, AND YOU CAN BE OF IMMEASURABLE AID TO AMERICA AT THIS CRITICAL MOMENT! AS TO MHY THE MOMENT! S SO CRITICAL -- I'LL LET BILL



"I-SEE YOU LOOK SURPRISEO -- AND I DON'T BLAME YOUI THEY'VE BEEN CALLED HOAXES AND MASS HALLUCINATIONS, BUT THEY AC-TUALLY EXIST -- AND MAY BE THE GREATEST OANGER WE'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED!"



"LET ME TELL YOU WHAT I KNOW OF THEM I'D BEEN ASSIGNED TO RUN DOWN THE RUMORS, AND WAS PATROLLING AN AREA WNERE THEY'D BEEN REPORTED —"

I GIVE UP! ONE SET OF STORIES HAS TMOSE SAUCERS WHIZZING OUT OF THE SKIES IN THIS AREA-AND ANOTHER HAS THEM SHOOTING OUT OVER THE ATLANTIC, WHERE THEY DIVE INTO THE DEEPEST PART!

YOU CAN FOR-GET BOTH YARNS, BROTHER! THOSE THINGS JUST DON'T EXIST!



LOOK OUT, BILL!

"IT HAPPENED AT THAT YERY MOMENT -- TOO CLOSE TO DOOGE! OUT OF A NEARBY BANK OF CLOUDS --"

"WE COULD HAVE SEEN KILLED OUTRIGHT, BUT WE WERE LUCKY! WE BAILED OUT \_"



"" WASN'T MUCH USE WITH A BROKEN LEGI BUT BEN GROSS, MY BUDDY, TOOK A CHANCE ON BYYESTIGATING THE DANAGED FLYING SAUCER, WHICH HAD LANDED NEARBY!"

BE... CAREFUL DON'T WORRY! I'VE GOT EIGHT SHOTS -- AND A MARKSMAN'S MEDAL FOR WHOEVER'S IN THERE

") CAN STILL REMEMBER HOW CAUTIOUSLY HE APPROACHED IT --AND MY THINKING THEY WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE WITH A FIGHT-ING DEMON LIKE BENI BUT THEN I SAW THE LOOK ON HIS FACE --AND FELT A STRANGE CHILL IN MY SPINE!"



ø

"HE DIDN'T ANSWER — AND ALL I SAW WAS THAT STRANGE STIFFEN-ING, AS IF A SUDDEN PARALYSIS HAD GRIPPED HIMI BEN, WNO WAS AS HEALTHY AS AN OXI"



"I SAW HIM FALL, LIKE A DOLL WITHOUT THE BREATH OF LIFE -- AND I SAW SOMETHING ELSE! SUDDENLY, MRACULOUSLY, THE DAMAGED FLYING SAUCER WAS INTACT AGAIH -- AND BEN A PRISONER!"



"THEN, NEXT MOMENT --"



SO THERE IT IS -- WHAT I KNOW DIRECTLY ABOUT THE FLYING SAUCERS! WE SUSPECT THAT THEY MAY BE RUSSIAN SECRET WEAPONS -- OUR FIRST STEP MUST BE TO CAPTURE ONE AND INVESTIGATE IT! BUT THEY'RE KNOWN TO DIVE INTO THE DEEPEST PART OF THE ATLANTIC, WHERE NOTHING CAN GET AT THEM -- NOTHING BUT AMERICA'S NEW ATOMIC SUBMARINE!





THERE WASN'T ANY QUESTION OF REJECTION — THESE WERE AMERICANSI A SECRET GROUP OF PATRIOTS — SWEARING A SECRET OATH —

REPEAT AFTER ME!
"I SWEAR TO GIVE
MY ALL TO AMERICA...
TO PROTECT WITH MY
LIFE THE GREAT NEW
SECRET WEAPON..."

I SWEAR TO GIVE MY ALL TO AMERICA -- TO PROTECT WITH MY LIFE --



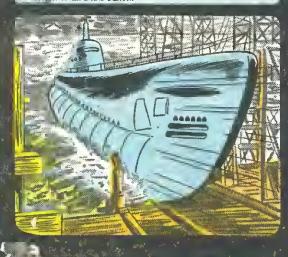
SUBSURFACE — AT A ROCKETING SPEED SUCH AS NO SUB HAD EVER BEFORE ATTAINED MILE AFTER MILE — DESTINATION, A SPOT OFF THE STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR INTO WHICH THE SAUCERS HAD BEEN REPORTED TO PLUNGE!

I-I'YE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT! WE'RE CRUISING... AT 130 MILES AN HOUR!

GOOD LORD! CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT SHE'D DO IF WE LET HER OUT?



AND SO THE DESPERATE CAMPAIGH OPENEDI ATOMIC COMMANDOS — ABOARD THE MIGHTY ATOMIC SUBMARINE — EMBARKED ON A MISSIGN OF LIFE AND DEATH!



IN AH INCREDIBLY SNORT SPACE OF TIME, THE DESTINATION WAS REACHED — A WASTE OF UNCOMPRED WATER THAT WAS SEENING-LIT BOTTOMLESS! POINTING HER HOSE AT A STEEP ANGLE, THE SUBMARINE DOVE DOWN — DOWN!



THESE WERE UNPLUMBED DEPTHSI AL-READY THEY HAD DIVED FAR DEEPER THAM MAN HAD EVER GONE BEFORE — AND STALL THE BLACK WATERS STRETCHED BEFORE THEM!

WE'RE DOWN MORE THAN SO MILES -- AND THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANY END OF IT! I'M BEGINNING TO WONDER WHETHER THE ATOMIC SUB WILL WITHSTAND THE



IT DIO -- AND MORE! AT A DEPTH UN-KNOWN TO HUMAN BEINGS, THE NIGHTY CRAFT FOUND THE OCEAN FLOOR -- AND RACED ALONG IT, SEARCHING FOR SOME SIGN OF THE SAUCERS!

THIS IS LIKE LOOKING FOR A NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK! I DON'T THINK WE'VE GOT A CHANCE! HOLY GREAT
JUMPIN' JIMMINY!
LOOK AT THAT-AND TELL ME IF
I'M DREAMING!





TVE GOT A CRAZY IDEA THAT THIS IS ATLANTIS..

THE FABLED ISLAND CONTINENT THAT SANK INTO THE OCEAN AGES AGO! AND NOW IT'S BEING USED AS A MIDEOUT BY AN INVADING POWER! IN SOME FASHION, THEY'VE MANAGED TO PUT A DOME OVER IT.. AND PROTECTED BY THESE DEPTHS, THEY'RE CARRYING ON SOME TERRIBLE PLOT AIMED AT US!

BUT THERE WAS NO TIME FOR FURTHER SPECULATION! THE IN-HABITANTS OF THE STRANGE UNDERWATER EMPIRE HAD SIGNTED THE ATOMIC SUBMARINE -- AND OPENED FIRE WITH WEIRD WEAPONS SUCH AS HAD NEVER BEEN SEEN BEFORE!





AND NOW THE OCEAN FLOOR WAS SNAKEN BY A WEIRD BARRAGE — AND DEATH MOVED CLOSEI RELENTLESSLY, THE ODD EXPLOSIONS, THE EERIE RAYS SOUGHT THEM OUT ---



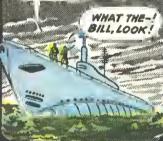




THE ATOMIC SUBMARINE CALLED UPON ITS LAST OUNCE OF SURGING POWER -- AND SHOT SUFFACEWARD AT BLINDING SPEED OUT OF THE MAY OF DEATH -- TO SAFETY! RUSH REPAIRS TOOK SEVERAL DAYS ...



WELL, WE'VE FOUND THE UNDERWATER ISLAND -- BUT IT'S TOO WELL GUARDED TO GET INTO! AND YET WE'VE GOT TO DO THAT IF WE'RE TO LEARN WHAT THIS PLOT IS ALL ABOUT!



IT'S A FLYING
SAUCER! IT'S
GRCLING AT
REDUCED SPEEDCOMING DOWN FOR
A PLUNGE TOWARDS
ATLANTIS!

IF WE COULD ONLY
CAPTURE ONE OF
THOSE BABIES, IT
MIGHT GIVE US A
CLUE TO WHAT'S
GOING ON!
BUT HOW?

ARE YOU FORGETTING
THAT THE SUB
CARRIES A SPEED COPTER TO WITH THE
SAUCER SLOWED
DOWN -- LET'S GIVE
IT A TRY!



THE WAS A JOB WHICH DARED THE YERY FATESI IT CALLED FOR SUPERB FLYING — FUR AIGHTY STRENGTH AND SHEER GRIT — BUT THESE WERE ATOMIC COMMANDOS!



IT WAS THEN THAT IT HAPPENED - THEIR FIRST SIGN OF SOME WEIRD OUTSIDE IN-PLUENCE THAT GUIDED THE FLYING SAUCER.

THE HATCH!
SOMETHING'S
CLOSED IT-WE'RE
PRISONERS

I--I DON'T LIKE THIS! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE! WE'LL GET OUT, ALL RIGHT! I'LL-BREAK THIS THING --TO SMITHEREENS!

NO, CHAMP
--NO.CCAN'T
YOU FEL
THAT RUSHING VIBRATION ? THE
SAUCER-IT'S DIVING
INTO THE SEA
AT TREMENDOUS
SPEED!

THERE'S SOME STRANGE, UNKNOWN IMPULSE GUIDING

AND NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT--JUST WAIT--SEE WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN--





THEY DIDN'T HAYE TO WAIT LONGI FIRST AN ODD, BREATHLESS HUSN — THEN A WEIRD LIGHT WHICH BATHED THE INTERIOR OF THE SAUCER — AND FROZE TO THE MARROW OF THEIR BONES!

THAT LIGHT -- THAT AWFUL LIGHT! WHERE'S IT COMING FROM

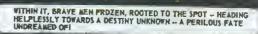
I--I FEEL FUNNY--AS IF--



YES, CHAMP, TOU FEEL FUNNT -- AND SD DO THE OTHERS! FOR THIS IS NO ORDINARY LIGHT! IT'S A RAY -- A RAT THAT PARALYZES!



AND SD, BEARING ITS PRISONERS, THE FLITING SAUCER SHOT DOWN -- OOWN THROUGH THE GRAY DEPTHS THAT REACHED UP HUNGRILT --







WILL THE CREW OF THE ATOMIC SUB ESCAPE THE AWFUL DOOM THAT AWAITS THEM? READ THE ANSWER - AND A THRELLING SURPRISE -- IN THE VERT NEXT STORY IN THIS ISSUE!

### KNOW ABOUT TORPEDOES?

THEIR HISTORY STARTED IN 1805 -- WITH ROBERT FULTON, AMERICAN --

YOU SAY YOUR
INVENTION DESTROYS
A SNIP BY EXPLODING
GUNPOWDER AGAINST
ITS HULL UNDER WATER,

YES, BUT IT
WON'T BE USEFUL--UNTIL THERE'S
A PRACTICAL
MEANS OF GETTING
THE CHARGE TO
THE SHIP!

ITS HULL UNDER WATER, MEANS OF GETTING THE CHARGE TO THE SHIP!

ATTEMPTS WERE MADE TO USE TIDES OR CURRENTS TO DRIFT THE "TORPEDD" TO THE TARGET, BUT TNEY FAILED! FINALLY CAME THE FIRST PRACTICAL WEAPON-THE SPAR, OR OUTRIGGER TORPEDO!

WHEN WE ARRIVE HEAR THE TARGET SHIP, THE CHARGE IS IMMERSED, IT THEN EXPLODES ELECTRICALLY ON CONTACT WITH THE SHIP'S TIMBERS!



(T WORKED! DURING THE CIVIL WAR, LT. CUSHING ATTACKED THE CONFEDERATE IRON-CLAD "ALBEMARLE" -- AND DESTROYED IT!

CRASSIP.

GIVING MOTION AND DIRECTION TO THE TORPEOD CAME NEXT! THERE WERE THE LAY AND SIMS-EDITOR TORPEDOES-ELECTRICALLY STEERED AND PROPELLED BY TRAILING WIRES!



T WAS NOT UNTIL THE LATE 1860'S THAT THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL, SELF-PROPELLED FLDATING TORPEOD WAS INVENTED--BY CAPTAIN LUPPLOF THE AUSTRIAN NAVY!

300 POUNDS, DAD-- AND CARRIED AN 18-POUND DYNAMITE CHARGE!

RIGHT--AND
IT TRAVELED
UNDERWATER AT
6MILES AN HOUR
WITH A SELF-CONTAINED
COMPRESSED
AIR
ENGINE!

AND FROM THESE EARLY BEGINNINGS OEVELOPED THE MODERN TORPEOO WE KNOW TODAY!



BRITISH MARK IV TORPEDO, SPEEDS UP TO 36 M.P.N., RANGE 7.000-8,000 YARDS, EXPLOSIVE CHARGE, 500 LBS. TNT.





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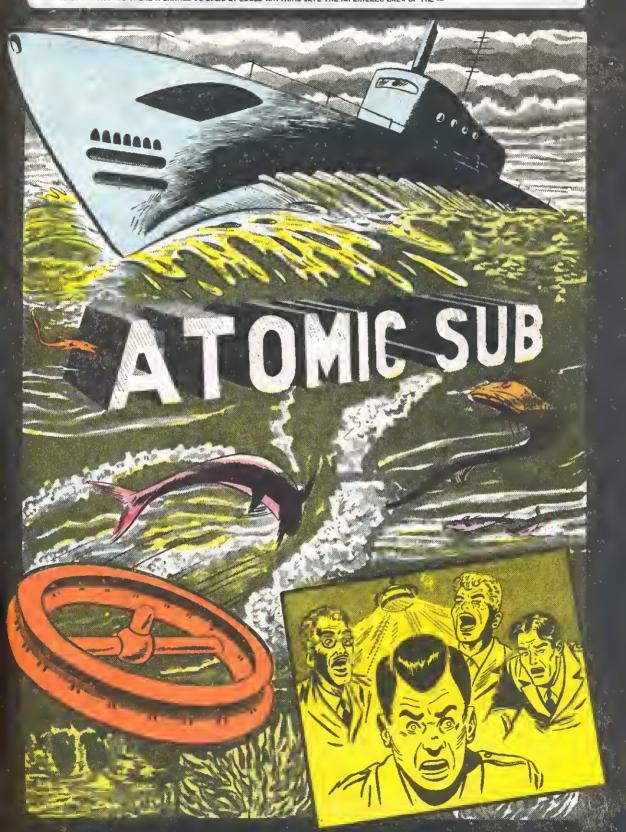


NEVER BEFORE IN HISTORY
A PROCESS SO EXCITINGLY
LIFELIKE THAT THE PICTURES
SEEM TO LEAP OUT AT YOU, FULL OF
EXCITEMENT AND INTRIGUING ACTION! THAT'S TRUEVISION -- LENDING
TO STORIES AN AMAZING DEPTH, A
THRILLING ILLUSION OF LIFE SUCH
AS NO COMICS MAGAZINE HAS EVER
FEATURED! AND -- HOLD YOUR HATS --

See TRUEVISION FOR YOURSELF IN AD-VENTURES INTO THE UNKNOWN AS WELL AS IN SELECTED FEATURES IN LOVELORN, ROMANTIC ADVENTURES, THE KILROYS AND COOK!E ... ALL ACE HIT MAGAZINES & THE AMERICAN COMICS GROUP! only !



SOMETIMES, IN THE MISTORY OF MAH, THERE COME DRAMATIC CRISES — WHEN THE YERY FATE OF HUMANITY HANGS IN THE BALANCEI THIS WAS ONE OF THOSE TIMES! A STRANGE FLYING SAUCER FROM OUT OF HOWNERE, DUILINGHIG DEEPER, EYER DEEPER INTO THE DEPTHS! AND WITHIN IT, LOCKED FAST IN THE AWPUL GRIP OF A WEND RAY OF THE WAS A THE WEND OF THE WAS THE WEND COLOR OF THE WAS THERE A CHANCE TO ESCAPE? COULD ANYTHING SAVE THE IMPERILLED CREW OF THE WAS THERE A CHANCE TO ESCAPE? COULD ANYTHING SAVE THE IMPERILLED CREW OF THE WAS THERE A CHANCE TO ESCAPE? COULD ANYTHING SAVE THE IMPERILLED CREW OF THE WAS THERE A CHANCE TO ESCAPE? COULD ANYTHING SAVE THE IMPERILLED CREW OF THE WAS THE WA











TOOK US CENTURIES TO BUILD UP ATLANTIS AS A POINT WHERE OUR FIGHTING CREATURES COULD ASSEMBLE IN HIDING AND SUFFICIENT NUMBER IO LUNKN A MIGHTY ASSAULT! THE TIME IS NOW! AND AS FOR YOU... THE EXECUTION CHAMBER WILL KEEP THIS INFORMATION SECRET!





THEY DIDN'T WASTE ANY TIME GETTING US INTO THEIR KILLING ROOM! I--I WONDER HOW IT WORKS--WHAT THEY DO--



THEY DIDN'T MAYE LONG TO WAIT TO FIND OUT WHAT WAS IN

GREAT SCOTT!
THE WALLS-THEY'RE CONVERGING-- CLOSING
IN ON US!

THESE MANACLES-DON'T KNOW WHAY THEY'RE MADE OF-BUT I CAN'T-BREAK TNEM!

ONE SIDE, KING KONG! I WAS AN ESCAPE ARTIST ON THE CARNIVAL CIRCUIT -AND THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO PROVE IT!



MADE IT!..
BUT NOW WHAT!
THOSE WALLS...
THEY'RE ALMOST
ON TOP OF US!

NOT BAD, HUHF I
CAN BE AN ESCAPE
ARTIST FOR OTNER
GUYS, TOO!

REALLY APPLY
SOME MUSCLE!

ONLY A FEW MOMENTS LEFT TO FREE CHAMP - JUST IN TIME!

GET 'EM FREE! TONY-LET'S SEE YOU DO YOURS!

CHAMP DID HIS PART — IN A SURGE OF STRENGTH THAT WREAKED HAVOC!











ACG ... THE SYMBOL OF TOPS QUALITY!
TOPS IN THRILLS, LAUGHS, ALL-AROUND SPARKLING ENTERTAINMENT! THERE'S A GREAT AND FASCINATING
MAGAZINE FOR EVERY TASTE IN THIS HEADLINE GROUP!

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- \* HA HA
- \* COMMANDER BATTLE # ATOMIC SUB
- \* ADVENTURES : COLO UNKNOWN
- \* FORBIDDEN WORLDS
- \* OUT of the NIGHT
- \* ROMANTIC ADVENTURES
- \* LOVELORN

You'll find these, and other ACG hits, at your

## Mothing EVER HAPPENS!

"HAT'S THE TROUBLE with a G-Man's life," said Joho Ransome slow-ly. "It isn't like you see in the movies or on television. It's all routine...and nothing

ever happens!"

Fred, his old college friend, sighed disappointedly. He hadn't seen John in years, and had hastened to look him up when he hadheard of his glamorous joh as a government operative. Surely he'd hear stories of high adventure and iotrigue...yet here was Joho telling him there was no such thing! The rioging of the telephone io an adjoining room interrupted his trend of thought. And it became apparent that their evening together was at an end when John returned, apologized hastily and then left ahruptly. It was probably some of that troublesome routine to which he'd referred, thought Fred.

Actually, It was far different. It was an emergency call to headquarters, where John Ronsome received a hurried briefing on a sudden development which hid fair to became a national emergency. For it seemed that the test model of the atomic activator had just disappeared, mysteriously, from the plant which had been about to place it into production. The activator made it possible to supply atomic power continuously and in tremendous amounts to special engines. With it, an airplane, a submarine or a hattleship could aperate indefinitely without refueling...and at unheard-of speeds. Military supremacy belonged to the nation who controlled it...and now it had been stolen!

It called for fast work. The device bad to he located before there was time for it to leave the country. And so John took up the quest at the point of disappearaoce. It was ftuitless to question guards and underlings at the plant, he knew. He had to find out who, had access to the atomic activator, and then proceed from there. The affair boiled down to six high company officials and about a duzen executive engineers. He scanned their tecords, their loyalty checks ...everything unimpeachable. He interviewed each...to no avail. There was only one thing...so intangible as to be meaningless, no doubt. Richard Casgrove, one of the engioeers. There was something odd about

his eyes...a contraction of the pupils that only the keenest observation could nate. John Ransome had such observation. He also thought it strange that Cosgrove, whose tecord as a war-hero was practically unequalled, should so loudly and emphatically proclaim his patriotism wheo questioned. Hang it, a man who held the D.S.C. didn't have to brag about how much he loved his country...oot when his past

accomplishments spoke for himl

It wasn't much to go on, but there weren't any clues...so John determined to check further into Richard Cosgrove. A fast trip to his home towo, a hundred miles away, netted him much local gossip...and a surprise! For it seemed that Richard Cosgrove had had a twio brothet, Andrew, who had also had traioing as an engineer. But Andrew had been as dissolute as Richard was decent. A habitual gambler, he owed everyone...and it was even whispered that he took drugs. Nobody knew what had happened to him...only that the old Cosgenve home was locked up and Richard had gone to New York on some engineering job. And now Joho's suspicion hurned hrighter. A surreptitious trip to the Cosgrove home was in order. There a skeleton key woo him entrance...and there, buried heneath the hasement floor, he found the mouldeting corpse which coofirmed his growing helief. This body was Richard's...and the man who had used his reputation and credentials to secure employment in the aromic plant as a trusted engineer was none other. than twin brother Andrew, whose contracted pupils had iodicated him as a drugtaker!

It was three hours since the theft of the atomic activator, and time was of the essence. Racing back to New York, John Ransome headed for the impostor's apartment, where the same skeleton key won him entrance. He stole in, noting that Cosgrove had his back toward him, giving opportunity for a ruse. "Hiya, Andy!" he cried. Surprised, the man whirled towards him. "How'd you know I was Andy..." he gritted, then atopped short, realizing that he'd given himself away. His hand darted towards his pocket, teaching for a gun, but themovement was cut short hy all of John's

lithe power, squarely behind the blow which sent Cosgrove crashing to the floor. His own gun drawn, the G-Man stood over his dazed victim. "Here it is," he snapped. "The way I see it, you were approached hy a gang of spiea who knew that your brother was going to work at the plant... and figured they could aubstitute you! They probably offered to pay off all your dehts, keep you in drugs and pay you a handsome sum hesides if you'd lift the atomic activator for rhem! The idea was that a great war hero like Richard Cosgrove wouldn't he suspeeted! And you, you rat...you were so hitter and jealous that you were probably plad wheo they killed your brothet!"

"How right you are," came a smooth voice from behind him...and whieling, John Ransome collided squarely with a smashing gun-hutt blow which sent him down, the world spinning madly about him. When his vision cleared, he saw a short, thickset man standing over him, gun held at the ready. There were about four other men, too ... hirelinga, no douht. Now their short leader was talking. "It was lucky we artived io time to follow yourio," he was saying. 'You see, we hadn't come here for the atomic activator yet...we had to secure a place first, to take it out of the country! There wasn't any danger of you finding it it here, even if you searched the place, which we had built specially for this purpose! Watch!" He touched a point high in rhe wood panelling, and a hidden compartment slid open smoothly. Behind it was a heavy vault...and within it, the atomic activator! "Now that the plane's waiting at City Airport," the short man smiled, "we can leave and arrange to transport this device of yours to Slavonia! But you'll have to remain behind, I'm afraid... 10 gether with a couple of my men who are experts at ...er...liquidation!"

So there he was...together with the men who had heen assigned to kill him! "Might as well get this over with," said one, in a husinesslike tone, as he checked the clip io his automatic. "C'mon...up against the wall with you!"

John Ransome no longer had a gun. He thought fast, desperately. There was one chance left...one alim chance. 'Give me just 60 seconds,' he hegged. 'I... I want to scrawl a goodhye note to my girl!'

"Make it 30 aeconds," one of the men laughed cruelly. "Go ahead, fast...it's only 20 seconds now!"

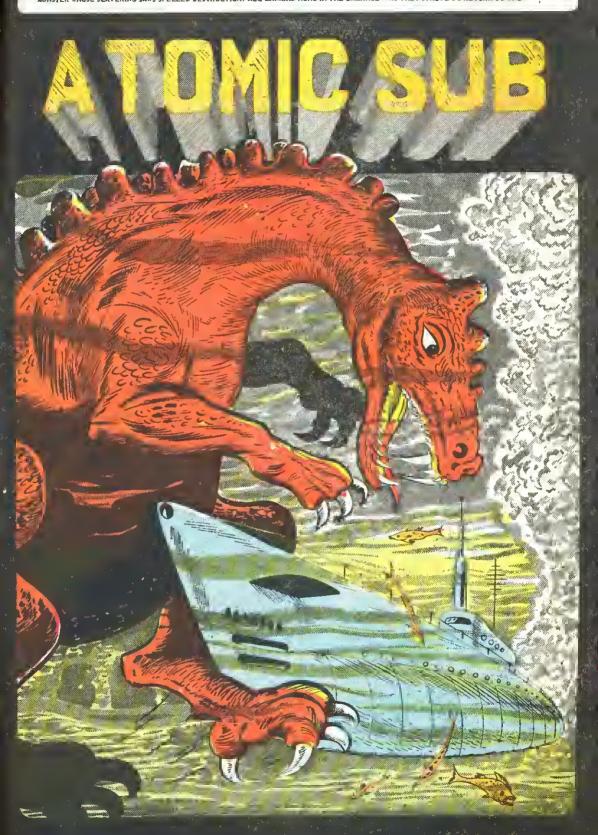
Reaching into his pocket, John pulled out his "pencil", heing thicker, heavier than the regulation, with a certain husinesslike air about it. "Look out," called one of the men, swinging his gun up to

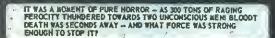
fire. 'That thing's a ... "

. He never finished what he had started to say, for John had hurled the device, and a blasting roar cut off the words...and the lives...of two spies! It was a new device which the Department of Justice issued to its agents, this pencil-grenade ... and an effective one! But the G-Man was already out the door, racing for his car helow. Perilously he sped through the city streets, heading for the Airport. In and out of traffic he cut at hreakneck pace, riaking death a hundred times over. And now, as he swung onto the hig Metropolitan hildge, he saw through the rear window of a hig sedan ahead, the unmistakahle features of the abort, thickset man, as he turned his head to speak to the mao beside him. John swung wide, stepping down hard on the accelerator with the Intention of cutting them off. But as he drew abreast, the apy leader sighted him, dove for something on the seat of the sedan...and came up with a murderous tommy-gun! There was no time now to think of heading them off... America's security and John's own life depended on lightning action! And, in this moment of awful emergency, the G-Man delivered! A plunging turn of the wheel...and his car plunged headlong into the side of the racing sedan! Out of control, the spy car crashed the bridge's guard-rail and broke through it...then commenced the terrific drop to the river far helow!

Nobody emerged alive from that car... including the impostor, Coagrove. But divers recovered the atomic activator... intact! Then, his day over, John Ransome walked slowly, exhauatedly towards his home. As he turned in at his entrance, a car alowed to a halt, and a man leaoed out, calling to him cheerily. It was Fted, his old college friend. "Look at him, taking it easy," the man cried cheerfully. "But I guess you're used to it in a joh like yours! All routine...and nothing ever bappens!"

IT WAS A MORTAL DANGER SUCH AS THE WORLD HAD NEVER KNOWN — THE AWFUL REVELATION THAT AN INVASION THROUGH SPACE IMPENDED — THAT MERCURY MENACED THE EARTH'S VERY EXISTENCE! DNLY ONE HOPE, DNE CHANCE FOR SALVATION REMAINED — AMERICA'S MIGHTY SECRET WEAPON AND THE DAUNTLESS DAREDEVILS WHO MANNED ITI COULD THE ATOMIC COMMANDOS ESCAPE FROM WEIRD ATLANTIS — FROM A GIGANTIC, HIGHTMARE MONSTER WHOSE SLAVERING JAWS SPELLED DESTRUCTION? ALL MANKIND HUNG IN THE BALANCE — AS THEY STROVE TO RETURN TO THE —







NEXT NOMENT, A SURGING BLAST -- AS DOC BENT THE SCIENCE OF ATLANTIS TO HIS OWN ENDS!



HEY, OOC--A BUNCH OF THOSE CREEPS ARE COMING UP AFTER US! HOW WE EVER GONNA GET OUT OF THIS PLACE?

THAT'S WHAT I

SAID! TURN THAT MACHINE AROUND

HMMM...A FEW ALTERATIONS
IN THE OUTPUT SYSTEM AND
I CAN STEP UP THAT OXYGEN
JET TO CYCLONE POWER!-SWIVEL THIS MACHINE AROUND
AGAIN, CHAMP-THEH HOLD THE
DOOR AGAINST
ALL COMERS
WHILE I

AGAIN, CHAMP-THE THEH HOLD THE BOOK AGAINST ALL COMERS WHILE I WORK!

BUT IN THE OUTER CHANBER OF THE LOCKS, A SHORT DISTANCE

I--I DON'T GET YOUR IDEA, DOC--BUT--HERE GOES!

NOT-- GETTING IN YET!
BUT IT'S LUCKY YOU
TWO SNAPPED OUT
OF IT!

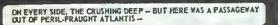
THROW THE
CONTROLS
THAT OPEN
THE LOCKS!

DONE!

DON'T WORRY--THEY'RE

MOW THE LOCKS OF ATLANTIS YAWNED WIDE - AND FROM THEM DARRED A BLAST OF SUPERCHARGED OXYGEN - A TITANIC SCARLET JET THAT SHAKED ALONG THE OCEAN BED, PUSHING THE WATER BACK, BACKI





WHERE ARE WE
GOING, DOC ? WHEN
WE COME TO THE END
OF THIS OXYGEN JETTHEN
WHAT?

WE HAD TO GET OUT OF THERE PRONTO, BILL-OR THEY!D HAVE HAD US! IF--IF WE CAN GET OUT OF RANGE OF THE ATLANTEAN WEAPONS, THEN I'VE GOT AN ACE IN THE HOLE I CAN TRY!

BUT BACK IN THE LOCKS --

EARTHLY FOOLS--THEY'LL NEVER ESCAPE
THAT WAY! A PATH OF OXYGEN -- AND
THIS TORCH--



THEN WHAT HAD BEEN AN AVENUE OF ESCAPE SUDDENLY BECAME A FLAMING INFERNO — AS A FIERY BLAST RACED TOWARDS THE ATOMIC COMMANDOSI

WOLY SMOKE! WE'RE COOKED - AND I DO MEAN COOKED! ALL RIGHT, YOU MEN-NERE IT IS! DIVE OUT OF THE JET--INTO THE WATER!

DROWNING'S
BETTER THAN
BURNING ANY DAY!
LET'S GO!

AND AS THE COMMANDOS OBEYEO, DOC PLAYED HIS TRUMP CARDI A SPECIAL RADIO SENDER, TUNEO TO A SECRET CHANNEL ---

CALLING ATOMIC SUB-MARINE! CALLING ATOMIC SUBMARINE! SUBMERGE IMMEDIATELY AND FOLLOW RADIO IM-PULSE! AND ON THE SURFACE -- HOT FAR DISTANT --

CALLING ATOMIC SUBMARINE!



A WNIRRING OF POWERFUL ADTORS -- AND THE ATOMIC SUB PLUMMETED INTO THE DEPTHS AT HEADLONG SPEED, DBEDIENT TO THE INSISTEMT RADIO IMPULSES WHICH GUIDED IT!



AND DOWN BELOW -- JUST AS THEIR LUNGS REACHED THE BURSTING-POINT --





HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT! BUT WE GOT IN HERE JUST IN TIME! IT WAS -- TOUCH AND GO
FOR AWHILE! I HAD TO -- GET
OUT OF RANGE OF ATLANTIS'S
WEAPONS BEFORE I SUMMONED
THE SUB-BUT
WE'RE SAFE
NOW!



SAFE? THERE WAS ONE THING TNEY HADN'T COUNTED ON — A POWERFUL ONSET LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A NIGHTWARE — AS A FLEET OF SPECIAL FIGHTING SAUCERS SWARMED IN FOR THE KILLI





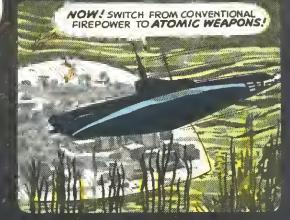
AS THE SCALES OF BATTLE, THE VERY FATE OF THE WORLD HUNG IN THE BALANCE -

DIRECT HIT--BUT OUR ARMAMENT'S WEATHERED IT! BREAK OUT OUR AUX-ILIARY RAPID-FIRE GUNS
--IT'S NOW OR NEVER!

NOW OR HEYER — AND THE ATOMIC SUB-RESPONDED IN A BURST OF FIGHTING FURY WHICH SCATTERED THE FLYING SAUCERS IN



THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING TO DO - RISK THE ISLAHD'S TERRIBLE UNDERWATER WEAPONS ONCE MORE! THEY HAD TO GET WITHIN RANGE - EYEN IF IT MEANT, EXPOSING THEMSELVES TO CERTAIN DEATHI



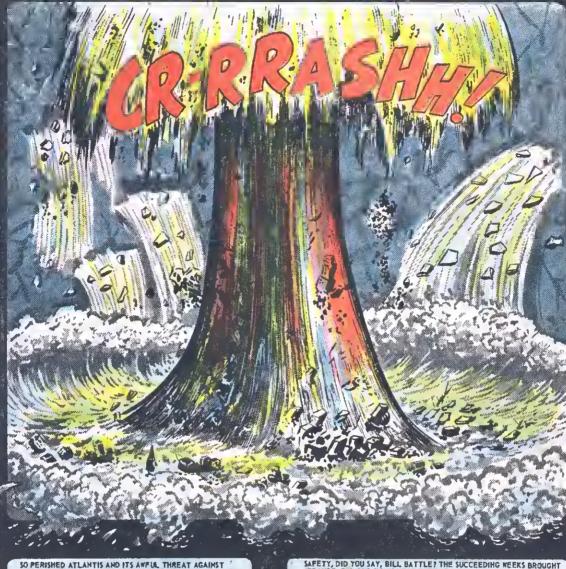
- THE ATOMIC SUB RELEASED ITS FULL TERRIFIC BROADSIDE OF ATOMIC SHELLS AND TORPEDOES!



AND JUST AS THE AVEUL UNDERSEA BARRAGE BURST ABOUT THEM -







SO PERISHED ATLANTIS AND ITS AWFUL THREAT AGAINST EARTH'S SECURITY — DEFEATED BY AMERICA'S GREAT ATOMIC SUB AND THE BRAVE MEN THAT MANNED IT! THE FOLLOWING WEEK — IN WASHINGTON —

THERE'LL BE A FUTURE FOR MANKIND ON EARTH NOW -THANKS TO YOU ATOMIC COMMANDOS

THANKS TO THE ATOMIC BUT THE DANGER'S OVER NOW-WE CAN SETTLE BACK IN SAFETY THANK HEAVENS!



SAFETY, DID YOU SAY, BILL BATTLE? THE SUCCEEDING WEEKS BROUGHT STRANGE, DAINOUS SIGNSI HERE THEY ARE, AND THEY SPELL - CATASTROPHEI

Beware ... They won't next while live ... They're

> WHAT WAS THE SE-CRET OF THIS WEIRD MESSAGE -- WRITTEN IN THE LIFEBLOOD OF A BRAVE MAN?

NO -- DON'T COME NEAR

WHAT WAS IT THAT SEAMAN R. O. WHITTAKER SAW - BEFORE TERROR ROBBED HIM OF HIS REASON?

LEARH THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS, READER -- TOUR LIFE MAT DE-PEND ON IT! SEE OUR NEXT ISSUE FOR THE MOST EXCITING STORY TOU'VE EVER READ -- AND WATCH BILL BATTLE LEAD THE ATOMIC COMMANDOS IN A MIGHT! BATTLE FOR YOUR SURVIVALI REMEMBER -- ATOMIC SUB-- NEXT ISSUE!





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